

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

(By Delegate Rowan)

Requesting the Division of Highways to name that portion of U. S. Route 50 in Hampshire County from its intersection with School Street in Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection with Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles more or less, as the "Pearsall Land Grant Historic District".

WHEREAS, U. S. Route 50 in Hampshire County from its intersection with School Street in Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection with Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles more or less, bisects the original Fairfax grant given to Job Pearsall as documented by the 1751 map by Jefferson and Frye; and

WHEREAS, The colonial history of the region is represented by the building of a by Job and John Pearsall in the location of the Pearsall Land Grant later known as Pearsall's Flats; and

WHEREAS, The largest Hopewell Indian Mound east of the Ohio River and dating from 1000 A.D. is situated in Indian Mound Cemetery overlooking this stretch of Land Grant Historic District; and

WHEREAS, The home known as Mechanicsburg, which has stood since

1 the Antebellum Period at the intersection of Fox's Hollow Road and
2 U. S. Route 50, witnessed some of the earliest fighting in the
3 American Civil War; and

4 WHEREAS, The South Branch River Road that was used as a vital
5 link for traffic in the South Branch of the Potomac River Valley
6 intersects with U. S. Route 50 a short distance from Romney and was
7 the venue for the murder of Confederate Captain George W. Stump;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Sycamore Dale, the substantial brick home of David
10 Gibson which narrowly escaped being burned during the American
11 Civil War by Colonel Lew Wallace and his Force of 11th Indiana
12 Zouave Infantry and was the location for the surrender of
13 Confederate Partisans McNeill's Rangers, stands as a silent witness
14 to the comings and goings of the Northwestern Turnpike and its
15 successor U. S. Route 50; and

16 WHEREAS, The Romney Covered Bridge and its successors near
17 Sycamore Dale and Romney have carried U. S. Route 50 over the South
18 Branch of the Potomac River since the building of the Northwestern
19 Turnpike; and

20 WHEREAS, The original bridge was documented in period Civil War
21 lithographs and later burned by retreating Confederates during the
22 Civil War; and

23 WHEREAS, The Union Army atop Mill Ridge and known as Mill
24 Ridge was built to guard the western approaches to Romney and to

1 command traffic in the South Branch of the Potomac River Valley;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Hampshire Southern Railroad laid its tracks
4 crossing U. S. Route 50 a short distance west to herald the arrival
5 of commuter and freight service in the South Branch of the Potomac
6 River Valley at Vanderlip in 1909; and

7 WHEREAS, The City of Romney will be celebrating its 250th
8 Anniversary in 2012 and a special committee made up of hardworking,
9 dedicated citizens from throughout Hampshire County has done much
10 planning and work to ensure that the determination and sacrifices
11 of our ancestors and our heritage are properly preserved and
12 honored; and

13 WHEREAS, It is fitting to designate that section of U. S. Route
14 50 in Hampshire County from its intersection with School Street in
15 Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection with Fox's Hollow
16 Road, some 3.7 miles west of Romney more or less, as the "Pearsall
17 Land Grant Historic District" in recognition of the long and varied
18 history of the area; therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the West Virginia Legislature:*

20 That the Legislature hereby requests the Division of Land
21 Grant Historic Districts name that portion of U. S. Route 50 in
22 Hampshire County from its intersection with School Street in
23 Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection with Fox's Hollow
24 Road, a distance of 3.7 miles more or less, as the "Pearsall Land

1 Grant Historic District"; and, be it

2 *Further Resolved*, That the Division of Land Grant Historic
3 Districts is hereby requested to have made and be placed signs
4 identifying that portion of U. S. Route 50 in Hampshire County from
5 its intersection with School Street in Romney, West Virginia, west
6 to its intersection with Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles
7 more or less, as the "Pearsall Land Grant Historic District"; and,
8 be it

9 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
10 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the
11 Department of Transportation and to the members of the Romney 250th
12 Anniversary Committee.